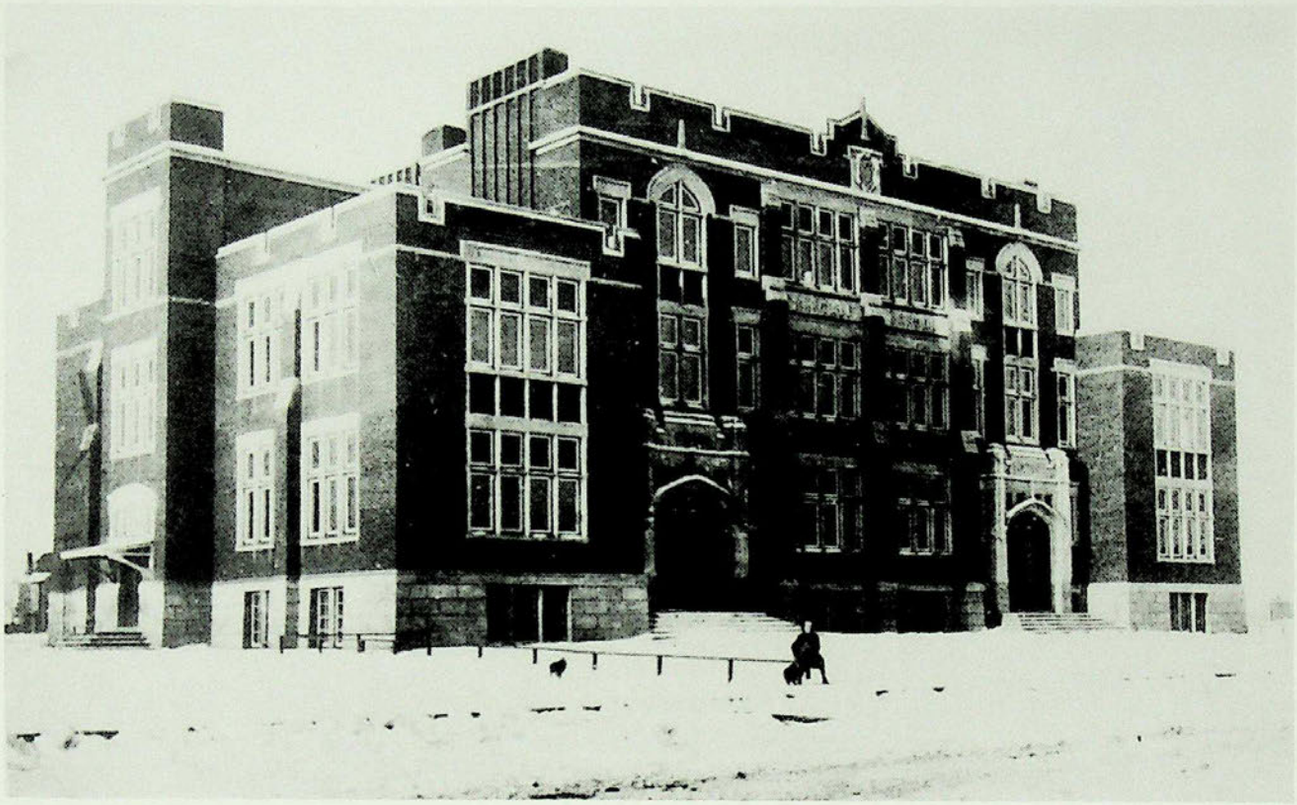
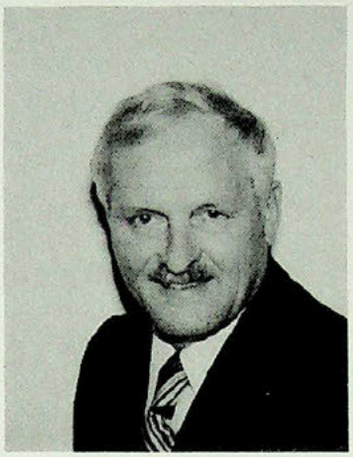
Parkdale School 70th Anniversary 1912 - 1982



Parkdale School extends a warm welcome to you on the celebration of their 70th Anniversary

Chairman's Message



I must say it has been a great privilege to be able to participate in Parkdale School's 70th Anniversary.

The various committees have endeavoured to provide a program that would highlight 3 days of viewing and visiting to recapture your old memories and leave you with many new lasting memorabilia.

The book on the history of the school required a lot of time and effort in order to provide factual events covering the past 70 years. A very fine job was done and our book will be a treasured possession for future viewing.

My congratulations go out to all the people who have worked so hard to make our 70th Anniversary a huge success.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Parkdale people a hearty welcome and I hope they will have a very enjoyable visit.

[redacted]

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
10010 - 107A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 0Z8. Telephone (403) 429-5621

Staff and Students, Past and Present
Parkdale Elementary and Junior High School

Congratulations to teachers and students of Parkdale, both past and present, during the celebration of your seventieth anniversary. I wish to extend my appreciation to all for your outstanding contributions over the past seventy years.

[redacted]

Michael A. Strembitsky
Superintendent of Schools

Parkdale School
1912 - 1919

There are many contradictory reports about the opening date of Parkdale School. The date on the building itself is 1912, and at the School Board Archives there is a picture of the building, with pupils in front, with a notation: "Parkdale and Pupils 1912." Public School Board records show that Parkdale was completed December 19, 1912, and that the contract for the metal fireproof stairway was awarded to Canadian Ornamental Iron Co. of Toronto for $3,000.

Parkdale was officially opened in April 1913, on the corner of Beach and Saunders, which is now known as 85th Street and 116th Avenue. Three years prior to its opening there had been only 1,249 schools in the Province of Alberta.

The early school principals were recruited from eastern Canada. At a Trustee Board Meeting March 13, 1913, a motion was passed that the successful applicant for the principalship of the 12 room Parkdale School be J.E. Wilkenson, B.A., of South Falls, Ontario, provided that he could assume duties by April 1, 1913, failing which, the appointment would be granted to George McDonald of Coleman, Alberta, one of the first principals appointed from western Canada. Mr. George McDonald was granted the appointment which he resigned in 1914.

The new principal was to have opened the new school on April 1, 1913; but a fire which caused damage amounting to over $15,000. delayed the opening for about 1 month. The School Board minutes of November 1913 record the recommendation that the final payment for the building should be made.

Parkdale relieved the overcrowding at the temporary Delton School, as well as easing the over-enrollment in the temporary Eastwood School area. It was not until 1915 when H.E. Balfour was principal, that Parkdale School was listed in the Henderson Report On Schools.

Teachers on staff in 1913 included:

Lorna Kaulback - Vice Principal		Ann Frazies
Ann Smith	Ann Pinder	Muriel Toffey
Helen Robinson	Irene Hardisty	Emile Sawle
Edna Tharp	May Siegel	

Caretakers: Mr. Maddison and John McDonald

Mr. H.E. Balfour was principal from September 1914, until 1916. At that time, he joined the 19th Battalion, and was taken as a prisoner of war in Germany. Following the war, he became Director of School Administration. After his retirement he moved to Lethbridge, Alberta.

At a 1914 Trustee Meeting W.K. MacKenzie, (who later opened MacKenzie Book Store) made the following recommendations:

1. That 150 Khaki uniforms for the Cadets of Edmonton High Schools — McKay Avenue and Parkdale be purchased.
2. That the necessary haversacks and other equipment in connection with the uniforming of the Cadets be authorized in proportion to the above number of uniforms. It is interesting to note that in 1917 the Cadet Corps. won the Dominion of Canada shields of marksmanship.

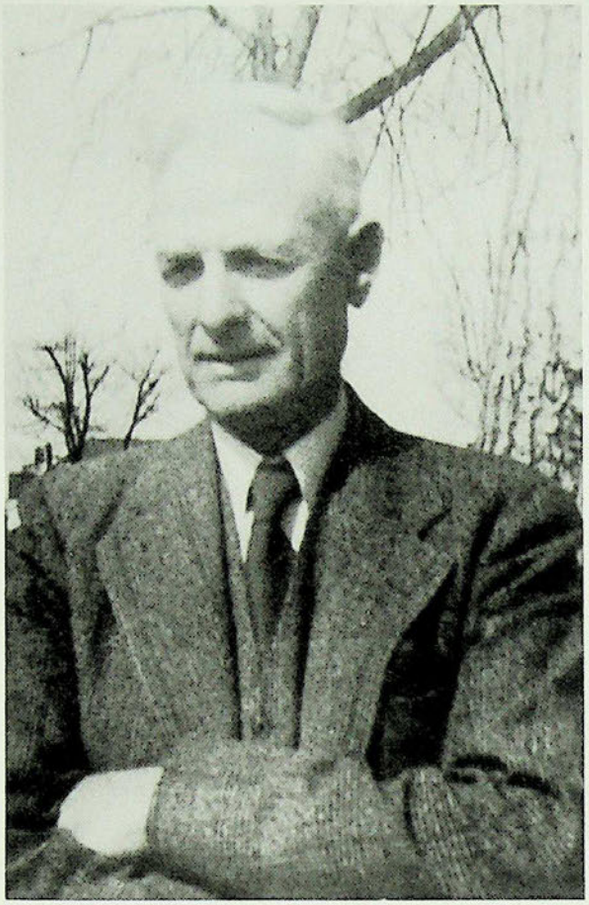
Mr. E.A. Lynch, a former teacher was appointed principal in September 1915, and served until June 1917 when he was replaced by Mr. J.N. Hoover who stayed until December 1918. Between 1913 and 1919, when a four room addition was added, Parkdale had no fewer than five principals; but the short lived tenure of the principalship was to end with the arrival of J.E. Summerville, who directed the school for 32 years.

In 1918 the school was closed due to the influenza epidemic, and many will remember the oil-of-eucalyptus soaked gauze masks which the City of Edmonton Health Department insisted be worn in all public places.

1918

Tom Davey
Jeff Brown

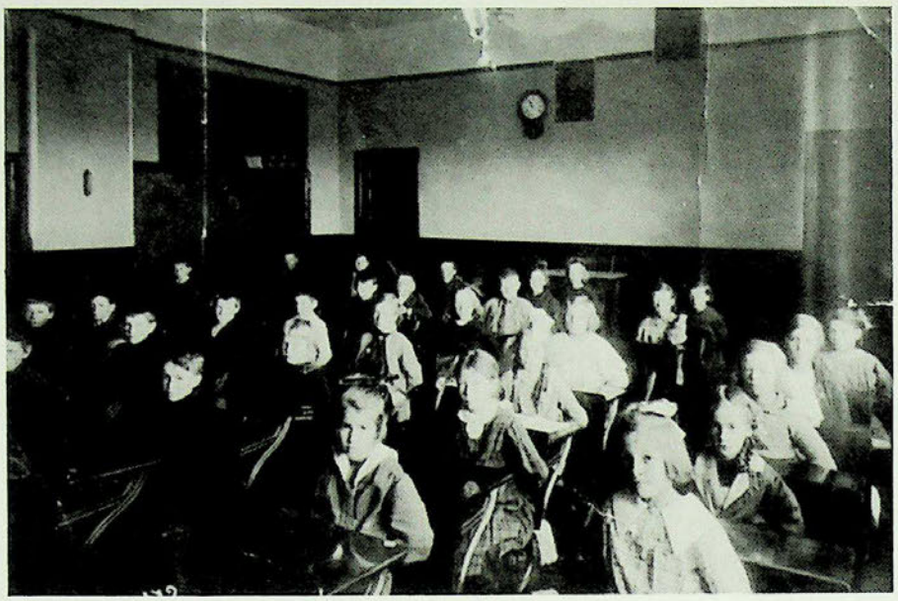
1st Cadet Unit in Edmonton



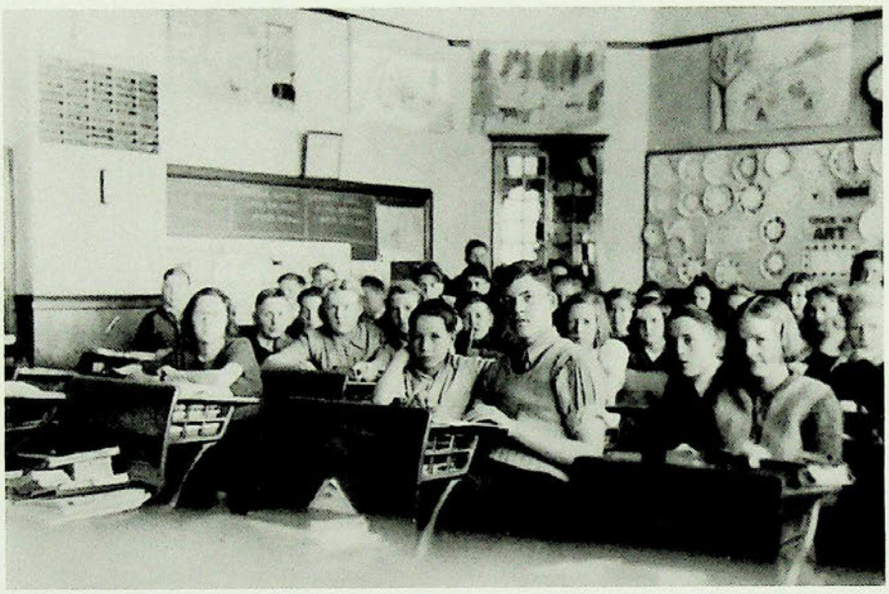
Mr. J. E. Somerville, Principal
Jan. 1919 to June 1951

Alberta Music Festival Winners

Education is a wonderful thing. For instance, if you couldn't sign your name, you'd have to pay cash.



Grade 3
Mrs. Read
1919-1920



1922

1920's

Parkdale School History
1919 - 1951

With the appointment of Mr. J. E. Somerville as principal on February 3rd, 1919, stability came to Parkdale School. The following spring, tenders were awarded to Pheasey and Batson for the construction of four additional rooms on the third floor to meet the increasing enrollment needs. From grades one to eight there were 559 pupils. By December, a moveable stage for the assembly hall had been approved and roof defects repaired. In June, 1920, steam pipes and plumbing were put in good condition and in September, a portion of the basement was partitioned off to form a room to accommodate primary students.

Enrollment in 1921 had risen to 651. Once more a new room was authorized, this time by means of an interchange of rooms. The School Board proposed that the new room should be built in the assembly hall, although it was cold, and should be used part of the time by a full class and on an "exchange basis" with another class when empty. Both classes would ultimately use both rooms and share the heat and cold in more or less equal proportions. Mr. Millen, the caretaker, received a salary increase of $60 per year as compensation for the extra room. By November, 1923, the double shift classes, and those in the assembly hall and basement room were transferred to Frank Scott School.

Appropriate dress for young ladies of the 20's consisted of a navy blue pleated skirt and a loose fitting, long sleeved, middy blouse with detachable navy collar. To give the ensemble a little pizzaz, the girls often pinned the bottom of the middy snugly around their hips. Suitable attire for the male student was most often a wool sweater and knickers buttoned or belted at the knee.

Parkdale's school day began with the ringing of the bell installed by H.H. Depew in April, 1919. Boys and girls entered separately from opposite ends of the school, lining up outside each classroom thus providing ample opportunity for nudging and jostling, which in one instance, resulted in the incurrence of a broken ankle. Mr. Somerville, strap in hand, used the occasion to inspect the ranks for proper dress and deportment. Any infringement in either area brought swift and appropriate retribution to the guilty party while his more worthy peers looked on.

The well rounded Parkdale graduate had classes in literature (The Classics), grammar, geography (students drew their own maps), composition, arithmetic, art, music, spelling, religion, military training, manual training, household economics and physical education. The "spelling bee" offered an opportunity for the better spellers to excel. Rapid cal (rapid calculation to the uninitiated) was the nemesis of many an unmathematically inclined student. All were required, with speed and accuracy, to mentally add, subtract, multiply and divide a series of numbers and give the appropriate answer instantaneously.

The student's physical well-being was taken care of during gym class. For girls, classes were held in the assembly hall where, decked out in white blouses and navy serge bloomers, they participated in calisthenics and worked out with dumbells. Outdoor activities included basketball and scrub baseball. Miss Thomson coached both the junior and senior teams. Boys, being made of sterner stuff, received their physical development on the playing field, learning the finer points of hockey, soccer, and baseball from Mr. Fraser, a former military-man.

Military training was offered in the Cadet Corps under the direction of Major G.W.C. MacNeille, organizer and instructor for M.D. #13. The last half hour of each day was devoted to military drills and manoeuvres. In the June 19, 1919 annual inspection Parkdale's Cadet Corps ranked 6th in their area with a score of 83 out of 120 and was commended for "the condition of arms of Parkdale being the best of any."

The older boys went to Highlands School for "woodworking" where it was not uncommon for a miscreant to be struck by a piece of flying wood, compliments of the shop teacher. Girls learned the rudiments of cooking and sewing at Parkdale under the watchful eye of Mrs. Elston, the very successful operator of a millinery shop on Jasper Avenue.

Parkdale student's spiritual needs were not neglected. Several times a week Reverend Roxborough of Grierson Presybterian Church visited Parkdale and neighboring schools to give religious instruction. The good "Reverend" was not adverse to the use of a little Tom Sawyet psychology to attract the young into his religious fold. Religious fervor seemed directly related to athletic prowess, since regular attendance at church was a prerequisite for eligibility on his hockey team. Needless to say, the pews were full of athletes every Sunday.

Lunch time, for those unlucky enough to have to eat at school, was spent in the basement in either the boy's or girl's lunchroom under the watchful supervisory eye of the older students. Popular pastimes included the exchange of lunch items and playing "Red Rover, Red Rover".

Fall was the season devoted to preparation for the annual track meet, usually held at one of the schools. Students from competing schools treked to the field of honor carrying their school colors, eager to vie with

each other for athletic supremacy. Girls wore rosettes in the school colors of red, blue and gold. Boys too, although less suitably distinguished, wore the school colors.

These were the days of the invincible school inspector whose visit caused fear and trembling to student and teacher alike. Not only did he check the student's ability and knowledge in a subject area, but also, the teacher's ability to teach that subject. Mr. Hughes inspected woodwork, Mr. Hedley, a local minister, inspected art; but perhaps, most memorable of all, was Mr. Norman Eagleson, inspector for the music department. Mr. Eagleson, tuning fork in hand, would lead the entire class through incessant scales and tunes, ever vigilant for a discordant sound. He then directed his attention to the individual student. One by one, they were funneled through a room where Mr. Eagleson (better known as Eaglebeak) sat in splendid isolation at the piano. Once more the scales were repeated - this time in solitary performance — no other voices to hide one's inadequacies. Pity the poor unfortunate who lacked musical ability or the young man whose voice was changing.

Report card time was greeted with trepidation by all but the scholastically inclined. Marks for individual subjects were indicated in exact percentages. Students' marks were averaged, the entire class ranked from first to last and this ranking was indicated on the report card. Competition in the upper echelons of the class was intense and to move from fifth to fourth standing was considered an accomplishment. However, in the bottom half of the class, to move from twenty-seventh to twenty-sixth was hardly worthy of comment. One's position at the bottom of the class was an obvious indication of one's future rank in life, and teacher and parent alike stressed the portent of a low ranking. To drop down a rank was disaster itself and such folly was not soon forgotten at home or at school, where the recalcitrant student was constantly reminded of the error of his ways.

The Annual Music Festival, held at McDougall United Church, was the occasion for the musically oriented pupil to shine. Edmonton students were classified by grade and category prior to the week-long event. Not only were singers and choirs required to perform prescribed songs, but to sight read and sing unfamiliar music. Others, versed in the art of recitation, recited from memory, heart-felt renditions of poems such as "The Ancient Mariner" or "The Highwayman." The interminable delay between performance and final adjudication heightened the tension for competitors awaiting the results. Would they be proud recipients of the coveted certificate or would they leave empty handed?

On September 13, 1922, a proud moment for Parkdale's choir was a performance at the Exhibition Grandstand honoring the visit of the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency Lord J.H.G. Byng and Lady Byng. Another was the 1928 trip to Lethbridge for the Alberta Music Festival. The school board not only sanctioned the students' absence, but contributed $150. toward expenses.

A visit to the school nurse, Miss Daly, in her second floor office, for a check of eyes, ears, nose, throat, teeth and general health, offered a brief reprieve from classes. Innoculation day, with its crying preschoolers, and medical smells wafting down the hallways was greeted with apprehension. In later years, those deemed to be too thin or undernourished, were directed by Miss Moore, to the home economics room for a daily dose of milk.

No school day was complete without the inevitable visit to Oliver "Brindley's" store on 86th street and the Fort Trail to purchase the day's supply of penny candy and gum. The horse trough in front was removed, and after several changes in ownership, the original building was replaced by a larger one housing Cheroots Grocery Store which still maintains a brisk trade in candy, gum and pop, to Parkdale students.

Parkdale School and Community pioneered the mutual use of facilities. In June 1921, Parkdale Community was granted permission to use the school-grounds, although tennis courts belonging to the local club already occupied part of the playground. By 1923, the Community League had obtained permission to flood a portion of the grounds for a skating rink, and the use of the school for "social" purposes and dancing. The latter privilege was soon withdrawn, presumably because it was considered an inappropriate activity within a school.

Parkdale's rising school population increased the need for playground space, and in October 1925 the tennis club was asked to remove all their equipment.

A 1926 internal modernization of the school was contracted to C.R. Frost for the sum of $426. June 1927 brough a request to have the grounds fenced.

Extra curricular and social activities in the 20's and 30's generally revolved around home, church and community. The annual church sponsored Christmas concert was always an important seasonal event. Saturday afternoon movies at the old Rose Theatre were a must. The theatre, with its blue half-moon marquee, was located on Alberta Avenue between 94th and 95th Streets and was managed by Mr. Shortcliff. It was eventually replaced by the larger Avenue Theatre built a few blocks east on 90th Street.

Early east end residents skated on the slough in the vicinity of 118th Avenue and 93rd Street. It was therefore fitting that the Alberta Avenue Community built their skating rink on the same spot. From its inception to the present, the rink has provided a focal point for the community. The rink shack offered a warm place in which to don one's skates, and outside, a sheltering screen for the young romantic.

The rink, with its central bandstand, gave the young a place to expend their energy playing tag, hockey and crack the whip. For older participants the live band music provided an opportunity to skate with members of the opposite sex. Many former Parkdale students have fond memories of New Years' Eve, skating to a rousing "Sousa" march or the more romantic sounds of "The Blue Danube" or "The Skater's Waltz." During the summer the rink was converted to a lawn bowling field. Eventually records replaced live bands, but the music style remained the same.

A Sunday picnic at Borden Park or an end of the year class outing, was an event to please all members of the family or class. Originally named East End Park, Borden, was established in 1906 as one of Edmonton's first parks. Borden was situated on 148 acres which had once been a slough. It offered Sunday band concerts in its band shell, picnic facilities, a baseball diamond, a wading pool, a merry-go-round and a swimming pool. The pool was constructed in 1916 from funds forfeited by The Edmonton Power Company's attempt to build a dam and sell power to Edmonton. For the more daring, there was the roller coaster, built in 1915, which was torn down in 1935. The young Lochinvar could take his girl on the "Old Mill", a wooden tunnel of love through which six-passenger boats floated in darkness to the accompaniment of frightening sound effects, flashing lights and the appearance of ghosts and skeletons. Jack Bible, local policeman, patrolling the park on horseback, was a familiar sight in the 1930's. Borden Park Zoo opened in 1928 with a $200.00 grant from the city. Thousands of Edmonton children had the opportunity to enjoy, at close range, the strutting peacocks, the antics of the monkeys and the many less exotic creatures. Few will have forgotten the pungent aroma within the confines of the zoo.

The "Dirty Thirties" following the Crash of '29 were years of unemployment and hard times. Supplying youngsters with clothing and books was frequently the ultimate strain on family finances and boys and girls were often required to leave school at an early age to help support the family.

Clothing styles changed little from the 20's to 30's and hand-me-downs were a way of life. Skirts, blouses and sweaters were still the norm and the princess-line dresses, usually home made, were popular. Smaller girls invariably wore large bows in their hair. Summer footwear consisted of brown or black long stockings, white if you were fortunate and black or brown oxfords. No bare legs for these young ladies! Winter footwear was less glamorous. The lucky ones wore black velvet overshoes with black fur around the top. For school it was moccasins over three or four pairs of wool socks and long stockings bunched over long underwear. The lumpy legged look, though unfashionable, was warm.

The Lindy cap, fashioned after the leather aviator cap worn by Charles Lindbergh on his epic, 1927, Trans-Atlantic flight, made its appearance in colored felt, embroidered with flowers.

Boys wore similar aviator-style headgear in winter, usually navy wool, with ear flaps down in cold weather and tied up on top on warm days. They also wore peaked caps like their fathers, tam like in shape, with a button on top, fitted above the ears with a narrow brim at the front which could be snapped up or left down, depending how debonair the wearer wished to appear.

Schools were ill equipped by today's standards. No storage facilities were provided, so the ingenious teacher provided her own, namely the extremely versatile orange box. In 1933 Mr. Somerville came to the rescue! Ever the innovator, he sent boys to Muttart Lumber to purchase wood and had the manual training classes construct braces and install the planks as shelves. Instant storage! They also built saw horses and with more planks, provided very useful tables.

Few library books were available and students were required to use the down town Edmonton Public Library. Text books were invariably handed down from older brothers and sisters or purchased second hand. The old reliable slate blackboard was the teacher's most useful tool since copying sheets consisting of the skillful use of a cake pan, a gelatine mixture, ink, and a press provided a definite challenge. Not quite up to today's push button methods but the results were adequate.

The spring time Arbor Day ritual involved cleaning the school grounds, planting new trees, pruning and watering old ones and generally getting everything ship-shape. The backbreaking work of digging, planting and watering by means of the firehose was executed by the older boys under the watchful eye of Mr. Somerville. On one occasion they innocently flattened him against the wall with the force of the firehose. A thick arbor of willows, complete with white wooden archway, eventually overgrew the 8th Street entrance and had to be removed in the 1940's.

Lockerbie and Hole received a contract for modernizing the school's sanitary arrangements in 1930. The first woman principal, Miss Aileen Miller was appointed that same year. In 1931 Mr. Smith transferred from Highlands to Parkdale as a science teacher. He became famous for his pickled specimens, his springtime tanks of tadpoles and his very popular nature study excursions to Rat Creek Ravine and Borden Park. Miss Elliott, one of Parkdale's best loved teachers, began her teaching career in 1933 teaching grade five. She changed soon after to grade one, where she remained till 1970.

In 1931 Parkdale received a facelift in the form of a new coat of paint. However, no decorator coordinated colors were used in those days. The top half was painted stark white, the bottom half battleship grey, and even

the new paint could not remove the permeating smells of wallpaper paste and oiled hardwood floors. Desks were bolted to the floors and many a little girl's pigtail saw the inside of the perennial inkwell.

1935 brought the first grade nine class to Parkdale, although it remained under the jurisdiction of the principal of Eastwood High School. Mrs. D. K. Cameron was transferred from Riverside to teach the class. A study regarding the establishment of intermediate schools at McCauley, King Edward, Garneau, Oliver, Westmount and at Parkdale was made. Parkdale's own intermediate centre seems to have started in January 1938. Mr. W.T. Coomb, male vice-principal at that time, received a $100. per annum increase for the added responsibilities. Mr. G.L. Turrell transferred to Parkdale from Cromdale as vice-principal in September 1939.

The Edmonton Public School board declared June 2, 1939 a holiday in recognition of the first visit of a reigning monarch to Canada. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth travelled by motorcade along grandstand lined Portage Avenue, renamed Kingsway in honor of the visit. Students were given a Silver Medallion to commemorate the momentous occasion.

World War II erupted on September 3, 1939 and with it came rationing, the influx of families into Edmonton, and the separation of families, as fathers, brothers and uncles went off to war. School enroiments skyrocketed! Forty eight in one class was not uncommon, straining facilities to the limit. In 1943, $700.00 was set aside for the construction of two additional rooms, and in 1945 a new school was built on 90th Street and 112th Avenue to relieve the congestion.

On Sunday, November 15, 1942 a nineteen inch snowfall, producing waist high drifts, (fifteen feet in country areas) brought Edmonton to a standstill, closing everything, including schools, for 3 days. Because the city lacked snow removal equipment, the American Air Forces and Alaska Highways crews came to the rescue.

During the war years, teachers collected quarters from students, exchanged them at Harry Tait's store for savings stamps, and when the savings booklets were full, presented youngsters with a savings certificate.

VE Day, ending the war in Europe, was celebrated May 8, 1945. An even more boisterous celebration on August 14, heralded the end of World War II. Following a huge parade downtown, model T's raced up and down the streets filled with masses of jubilant dancing and singing celebrants.

School changes included the installation of a gas main and heating equipment in 1945. The purchase of a new gas range for the home economics room in 1946, concrete sidewalks connecting the school entrances to the city sidewalks, a $250 expenditure for the reconstruction of the Auditorium stage, all in 1948. 1949 brought hot and cold water and an equipment cabinet to the teacher's room and a stop sink to the third floor. A request for the conversion of the former coal storage space to a male staff room was turned down, but at a cost of $625., a third floor room was adapted for this purpose in 1950. Steel fencing around the school was installed at a cost of $2,813.30.

Students of the 1940's remember fondly: school sleigh rides in grade six, horses and sleighs from Barnes' Stables, followed by hot chocolate at someone's house; sitting around the Trail Inn on 86th Street listening to the Whirlitzer(sometimes borrowed for parties), or hanging around the Alberta Avenue News on 90th Street.

Girls wore Jantzen or sloppy "Joe" sweaters, always 2 sizes too large, skirts, oxfords and stockings rolled to the ankles in tight little rings. Later they discovered pony tails, bobby sox, penny loafers and saddle shoes and even slacks or blue jeans rolled above the ankle.

Boys wore longs pants and jeans, even progressing to pastel colors of baby blue, canary yellow, pink and white topped with a V necked sweater. Boys, too, discovered the penny loafer and diamond sox were a must.

Mr. Somerville's retirement in 1951 after 32 years as principal ended a dynamic period in Parkdale's history.

Audrey Fouracre
Vern Logan
Harold Shortridge
Mary Michajlak
Doreen Sturla
Bernice Flotten
Lois Field
Jim Dinowall
Fred Charlesworth
Joyce Woods
Vera
Gordon Thompson

"We have quit learning if we don't feel a little more ignorant everyday."

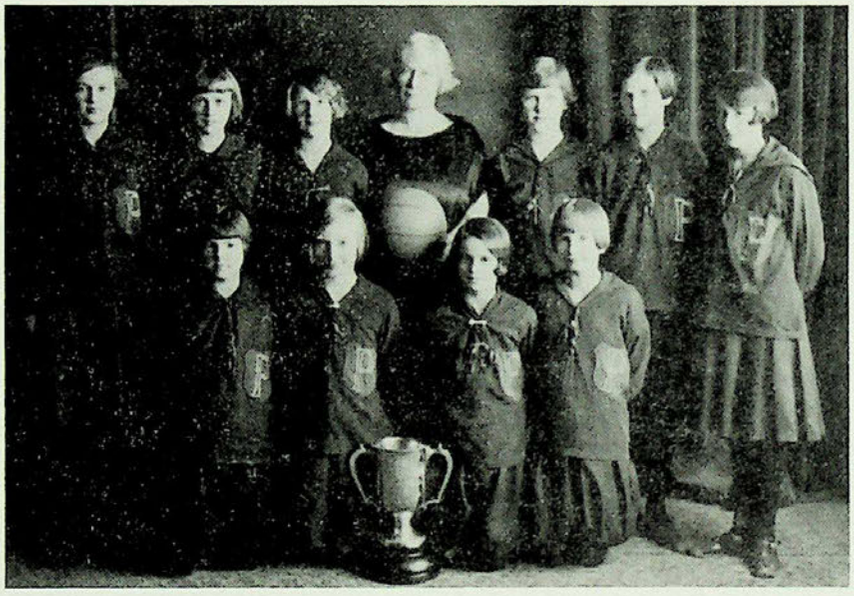
May 17, 1940
Grade Six

May 17, 1940
Robert Cruise, Don Smith,
Bill Sutherland, Tom Dawes,
Roy Braden, Pritchard James,
Billy Link, Lord Milton,
Gordon Robertson, John Kay,
Arthur Dee, George Bisset,
Bert Ward, Don Bjorge,
Clifflon Meginus, Bob Dickson,
Vernon Clark, Kenneth McCaul

School rivalry was very important and we are proud of the Yellow, Crimson and Blue. Do you remember?

Yell - Yell - Yellow
Crimson and Blue
We're from Parkdale
Why aren't you?

Rick a tick - Rick a tick
Sis boom bah
Parkdale - Parkdale
Rah - Rah - Rah



Jr. Girls Basketball 1924
Front Row Left to Right: E. Wood, E. Coulson, A. Stevenson, I. Armstrong
Back Row Left to Right: M. Janishewski, E. Christian, V. Lindsay, Miss Thomson, M. McCallum, E. Bristow & N. Belanger

Senior Girls Basketball 1925-26
Front Row: Inez Cummings, Evelyn Coulson, Capt. Jessie Innes, Pauline Bawden
Back Row: Miss Thomson, Olga Kuchinski, Jean Thomson, Helen Deutch, Mary Janishewski

Hoops & Baskets

During the 1920's and early 30's PARKDALE was fortunate to have a Grade One teacher, Miss Olive Thomson, who was well liked and respected by all. As well as her teaching duties she was also the coach of the Junior and Senior Girls' basketball, baseball and track teams.

A group of girls who attended PARKDALE in this era were very sports oriented; however, "basketball" was their game. They played on the Junior and Senior teams and by Grade Eight, their final year at PARKDALE, they had won the City Championship.

These girls graduated and went on to attend McDougall Commercial High School. They had two goals in mind - to become top flight stenographers or secretaries, and to play school basketball with the ultimate goal of making a place on the "EDMONTON GRADS BASKETBALL TEAM", the World Champions.

When Coach J.P. Page saw this group of girls play on the McDougall School teams, he formed the first feeder team for the "GRADS", known as the "GRADETTES", coached by Wm. Tait, Mr. Page's assistant.

In the 25 years the "EDMONTON GRADS" played and held the World championship, there were only 38 players and seven of them started their basketball careers as students at PARKDALE under the coaching and guidance of Miss Thomson.

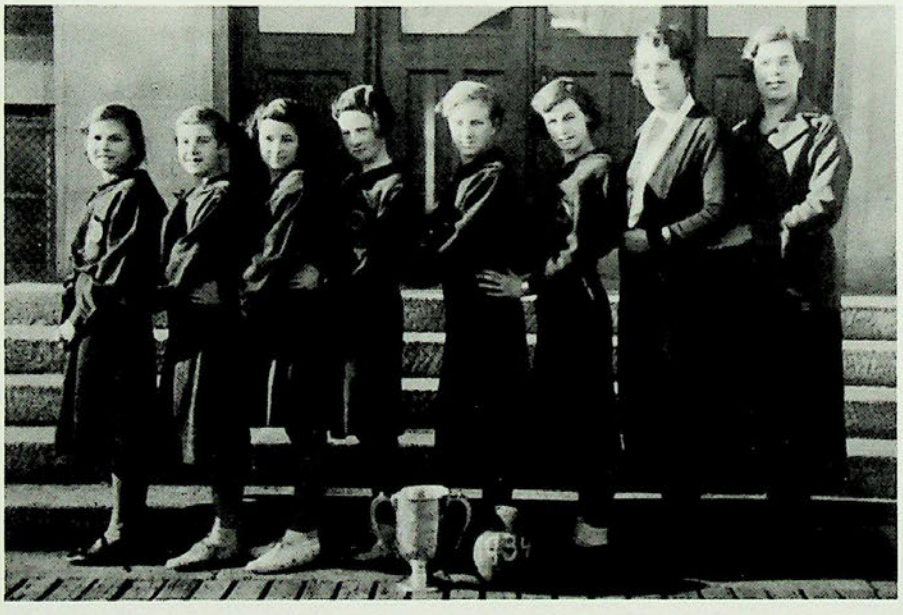
The seven who played for the "EDMONTON GRADS" for various lengths of time were:

Evelyn Coulson (Cameron)
Jessie Innis (Maloney)
Doris Neal (Chapman)
Edith Stone (Sutton)
Helen Stone (Stewart)
Babe Belanger (McLean)
Betty Bawden (Bowen)

The girls all live in Edmonton and are very close friends who have stayed interested in sports as both participants and spectators. They kept in constant touch with Miss Thomson until her death in 1956.

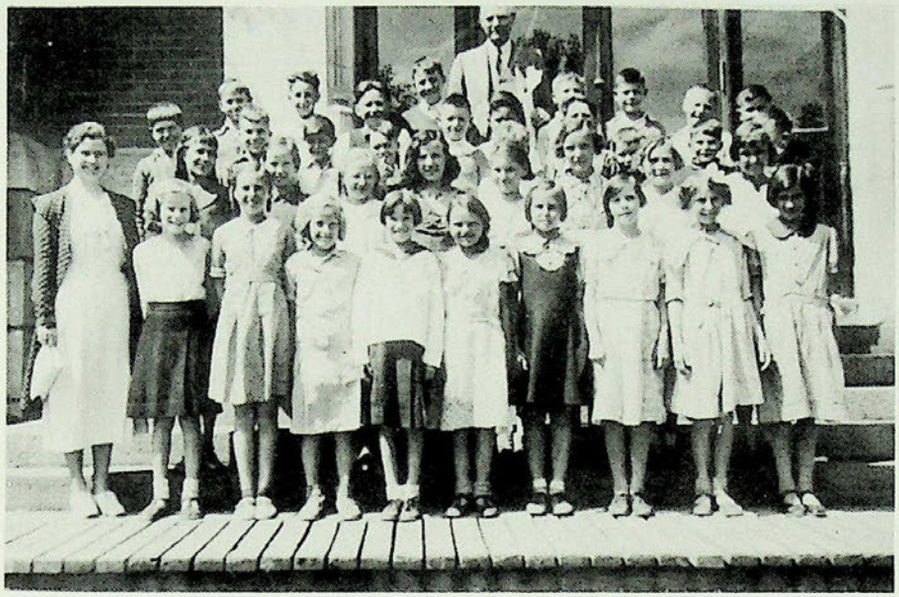
Jr. Girls Basketball 1930

Left to Right:
A. Miller, Jean Mickie, Emilly Reid, Annie Buga, Phyllis Storie, Blanche Belanger, Phyllis Neal, Betty Bawden, Sarah Sheckter, G. Fraser.

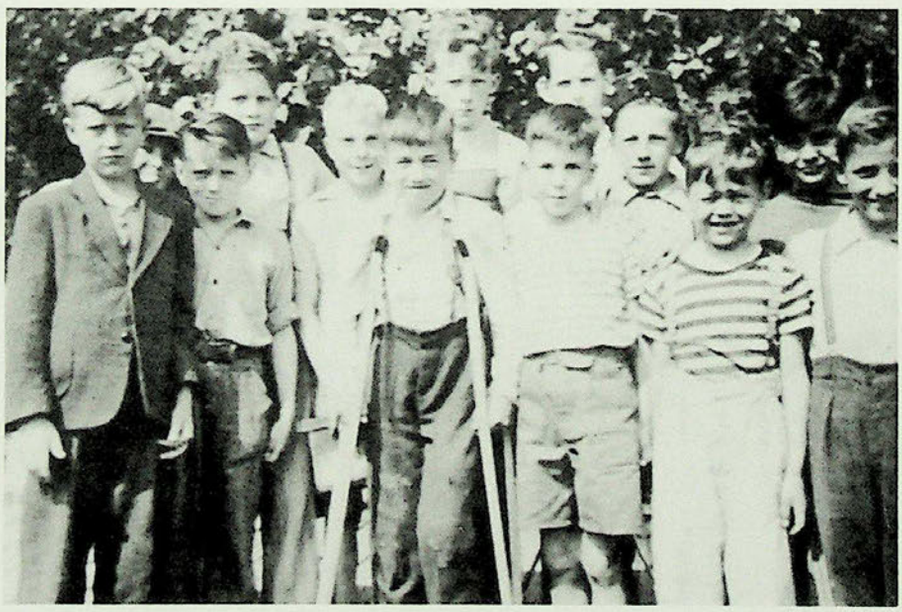


Girls Basketball 1934

Ella Swedesky, Viola Foster, Helen Madill, Jean Southall, Phyllis Jones, Jessie McGregor (Capt.), E. Paskins, J. Elliott.

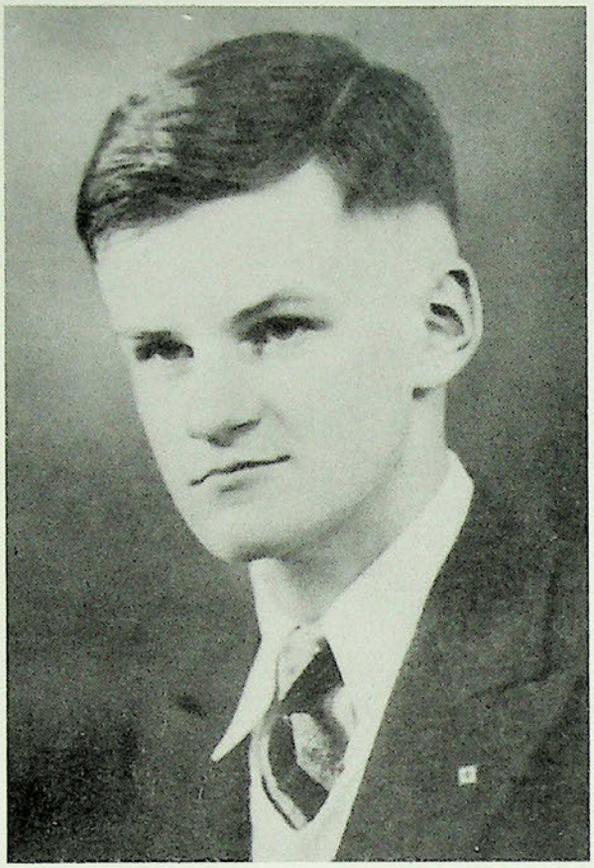


"He who has imagination without learning has wings but no feet."



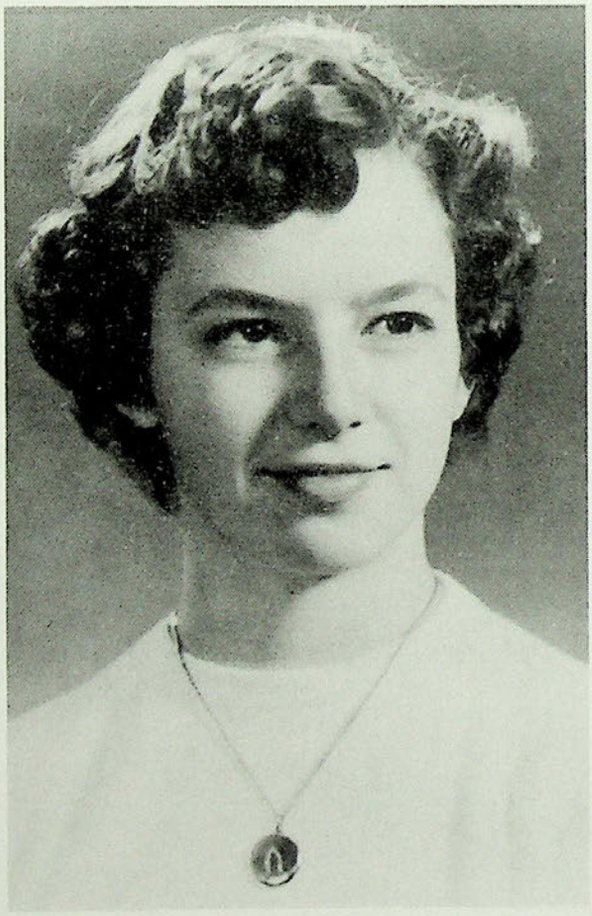
Joe White, Allan Wright, Vern Logan,
Russell Fermenik, Larry Mazurek
1944

Governor General's Awards



Robert Wilson
Governor General's Award
1938

Patricia Goodman
Governor General's Award
1954



Jean Carmichael
Governor General's Award
1956

Remember when HIPPIE mean big in the hips,
And a TRIP involved travel in cars, planes, and ships?
When POT was a vessel for cooking things in,
And HOOKED was what Grandmother's rug might have been?
When FIX was a verb that meant mend or repair,
And BE-IN meant simply existing somewhere?
When NEAT meant well organized, tidy and clean,
And GRASS was a ground cover normally green.
When lights (not people) were TURNED ON and OFF,
And the PILL might have been what you took for a cough?
When CAMP meant to sleep outdoors in a tent,
And POP was what the weasel went?
When GROOVY meant furrowed with channels and hollows,
And BIRDS were winged creatures, like robins and swallows,
When FUZZ was a substance that's fluffy like lint,
And BREAD came from bakeries, not from the mint?
When SQUARE meant a 90 degree angle form,
And COOL was a temperature not quite warm?
When ROLL meant a bun, and ROCK was a stone,
And HANG-UP was something you did with the phone?
When CHICKEN meant poultry, and a BAG was a sack,
And JUNK was trash, cast-offs, and old bric-a-brac?
When JAM was preserves that you spread on your bread,
And CRAZY meant balmy, not right in the head?
When CAT was a feline, a kitten grown up,
And TEA was a liquid you drank from a cup?
When SWINGER was someone who swung in a swing,
And a PAD was a soft sort of cushiony thing?
When WAY-OUT mean distant and far, far away,
And a man couldn't sue you for calling him GAY?
When DIG meant to shovel and spade in the dirt,
And PUT-ON was what you would do with a shirt?
When TOUGH described meat too unyielding to chew,
And MAKING A SCENE was a rude thing to do?
Words once so sensible, sober and serious,
Are making the FREAK SCENE — like PSYCHEDELIRIOUS.
It's GROOVY, MAN, GROOVY, but English it's not,
Me thinks that the language is going to POT!!

June Goodsell in AVCAM Newsletter, 12/69

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Jean R. Elliott
M. G. Brimacombe
M.D. Clark
Isabella Hunter Clarke
Kenneth Brown
P. L. Campbell
G. L. Crawford
Pearl Cooper
E. M. Cuff
B. Burwash
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E. Paskins
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Kenneth Smith

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R. E. Patterson
N. Poohkay
J. W. Sorochan
Norman E. Stewart
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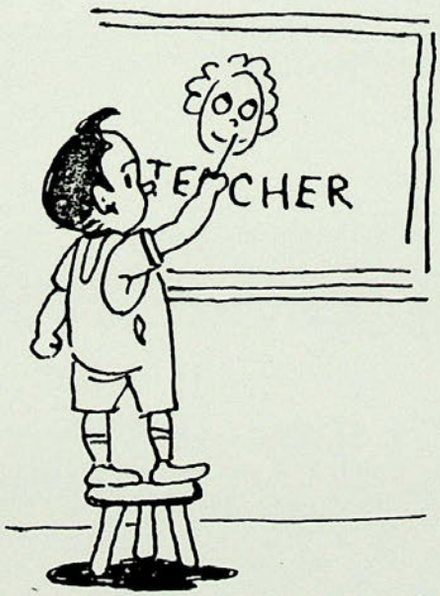

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thank a teacher.

"I have never let my schooling
interfere with my education."
Mark Twain

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MESSAGE FROM PREMIER LOUGHEED

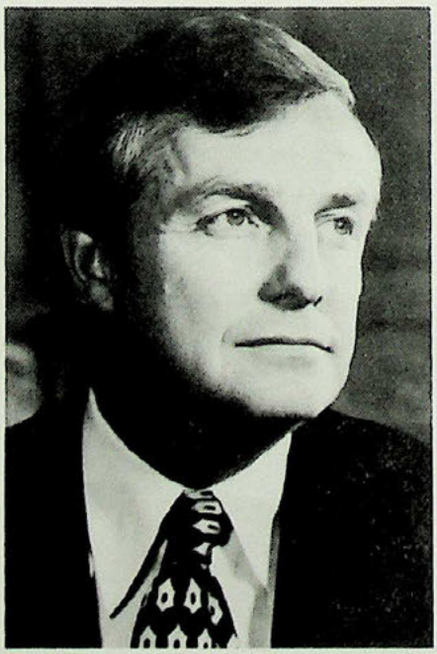
I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend greetings, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, to the faculty and students, past and present, of Parkdale School on the occasion of your 70th Anniversary Reunion.

As you celebrate this milestone, I am sure you will reflect upon the proud history of your institution, and its many contributions over the past seventy years.

Best wishes for a truly memorable and enjoyable celebration, and continued success in the future.

[redacted]

Peter Lougheed



THE CITY OF Edmonton

City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2R7

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

C. J. (CEC) PURVES
MAYOR

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to all students and staff, past and present, of Parkdale School on its 70th anniversary.

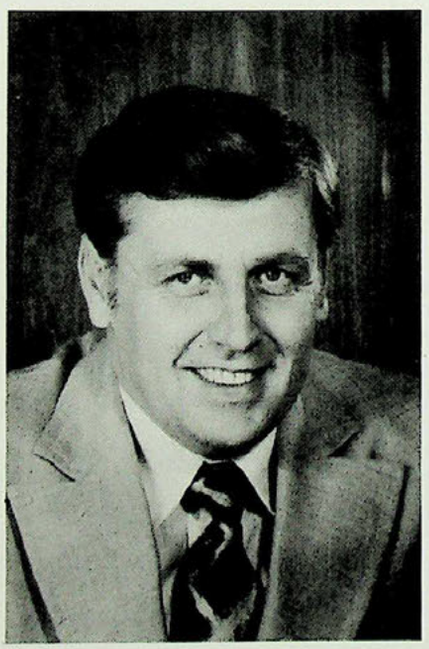
Education in today's world opens doors and pulls down barriers to help all to a better life. Our access to education gives us reason for celebration every day. How much greater that day becomes when we celebrate 70 years of learning.

On behalf of the City of Edmonton, I would offer best wishes to everyone at Parkdale for a successful reunion, June 11, 12 and 13th.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

C. J. (Cec) Purves
Mayor



Parkdale School

1951 - 1982

Mr. W. R. Stewart was principal for most of the 1950's. He came from the principalship of Riverdale School, stayed with Parkdale from September 1951 to June 1958, and went on to the same position at Spruce Avenue School.

That same year a contract was awarded to Gormans Limited for the supply and erection of steel fencing, and in 1956 a general contract for the construction of a new gymnasium was awarded to T.A. Jones Construction Company. The following year, 1957, a request by the Parkdale Home and School Association to increase the school site by 0.39 acres was granted. This land was acquired from the city at no cost and at that time the fence was relocated.

More space was needed for students and on November 26th, 1957, conversion of industrial arts and home economics shops to classrooms was approved.

On April 4th, 1958 Mr. Reid succeeded Mr. Stewart as principal, transferring from Queen's Avenue School. Mr. L. F. Sills was appointed as assistant principal. The Secretary-Treasurer was authorized to request the city to lay cement sidewalks on 85th and 86th streets adjacent to Parkdale School site.

On January 6th, 1959, orders were placed with Taylor, Pearson and Carson Limited to supply Public Address Intercommunication Equipment.

Still more room was needed and on May 5th, 1959 the Superintendent recommended that a basement room of the school be converted into a classroom. Enrollment at this time was 643 students.

April 21st, 1963 marked the celebration of Parkdale School's Fiftieth Anniversary and a special program was held in the school auditorium.

Correspondence began on February 3rd, 1965 between Dr. P.F. Bargen, Superintendent of the Edmonton Public School Board and Mr. L. Coley, President of Parkdale Home and School Association, concerning either the demolition or renovation of the entire school. At that time the school had four floors, twenty one classrooms and a staff of twenty four teachers. It was submitted that the 53 year old structure was unable to meet the demands of the then 'present day concept of education.'

On June 21st, 1965, Parkdale Home and School was informed that it would be necessary to postpone any decisions. The planning committee was in the process of formulating a five year plan and any decisions had to be closely allied with the city progress and city planning.

In 1967 in a combined school effort, Parkdale pupils contributed to the financial support of two Asian children enabling them to attend school; a boy, Pee-Tah Chan, 11 years old, of Hong Kong, and a girl, Soon Ja Hon, 11 years old of Pusan, Korea.

During the period from 1968 to 1972, Mr. Don Marion was principal of Parkdale School and he led the fight to obtain upgraded facilities for older schools in Alberta. Mrs. Anne Thompson, President of the Parkdale Parent Teachers Association formed a committee for this purpose. This committee included parents and administrators from 19 schools in Edmonton, M.L.A.'s, trustees and senior administrators from the Edmonton Public School Board as well as A.T.A. officials.

The 'Parkdale Brief' was endorsed by 19 Parent Teachers' Associations in Edmonton as well as the provincial Executive of the Home and School Association and it also received support from several other school systems in Alberta.

Several presentations were made to Mr. Robert Clark, Minister of Education, and in direct response to the Parkdale Brief $6,000,000. was made available from the Provincial Government in 1972 to be used to upgrade older schools throughout Alberta. The facilities at Parkdale received considerable upgrading at that time.

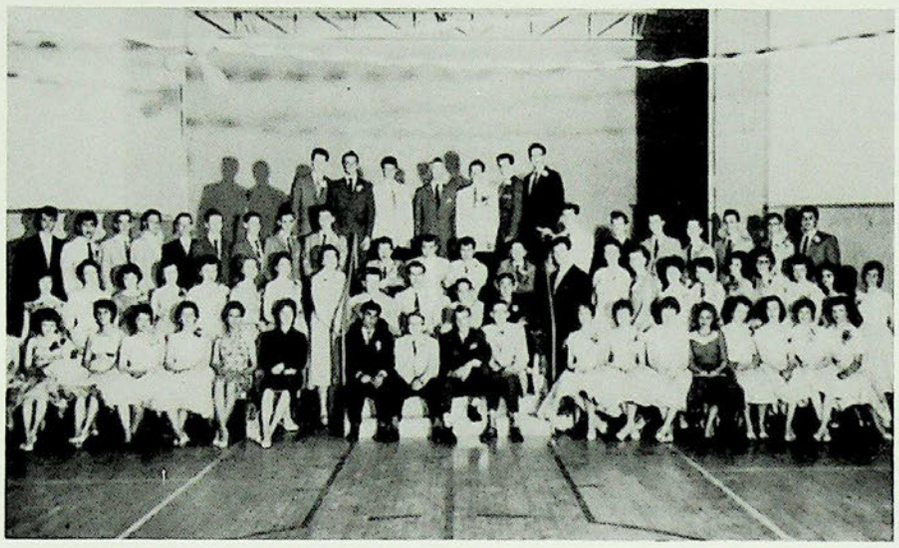
During the 1971-72 school year the School Administration decided to provide the Grad Class with an airplane field trip. Pacific Western Airlines was approached and they very generously agreed to provide a flight 'free of charge' that would take the class on a 30 to 40 minute flight around the Edmonton area. Two scheduled dates for the flight had to be cancelled due to weather conditions and just 3 hours before flight time on the third scheduled date, the flight was in danger of cancellation due to what was defined as inadequate insurance coverage. A hurried long-distance phone call was made to Lloyd's of London,insurance arrangements were approved, and flight, complete with complimentary refreshments (lemonade) came off without a hitch.

School Motto - "Second to None"

It was during the 1968-72 era that the motto "Second to None" was adopted by Parkdale School. A contest was conducted at the time inviting students to submit "Letter Head" designs incorporating this motto.

Mr. Olsen, the residing principal since 1972, has been with the school for 10 years. The enrollment has declined during that time from 570 students to the present 343 students. The basement now houses a music room and a kindergarten class that originated in 1973.

In March 1980 a proposal for a playground development was put before the Board of Trustees. This playground was to be on the south east corner of the Parkdale School site and was to be a community component and for the use of those attending the school. The plan provided for an elementary playground and a tot lot for the younger children. Adjacent to the tot lot was an area for supervision which could also be used as a passive area. There was also a perimeter track around the playground which would permit certain school related track and field activities. It should be noted that this proposal was unanimously approved.



Grade Nine 1959

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Grade Nine 1962

1982 Valedictorian

Dear Graduates, Teachers and Fellow Students:

I am very honoured at being chosen from the Grade Nine class of 81/82, to write our farewell to the finest school in Edmonton, Parkdale.

I am sad to admit that this is our last year at Parkdale, but the years we have spent here have been very beneficial. Dismal though we are that we must leave Parkdale at its peak of greatness, we must remember that we have this jubilee of years to look back on, and 'Let us not go over the old ground. Let us rather prepare for what is to come". (Cicero)

After leaving Parkdale, our fellow graduates will have gone on their separate paths, trying to fulfill their dreams and ambitions using the experience and knowledge the teachers of Parkdale have given us.

The teachers we have are one of a kind. We come to school full of questions, yet they answer them by teaching us knowledge. Slowly but surely they help us up the ladder of education. They have sacrificed their own free time for us and the school. Parkdale will never be able to replace this year's teachers, for they are like the school's motto, "Second to None".

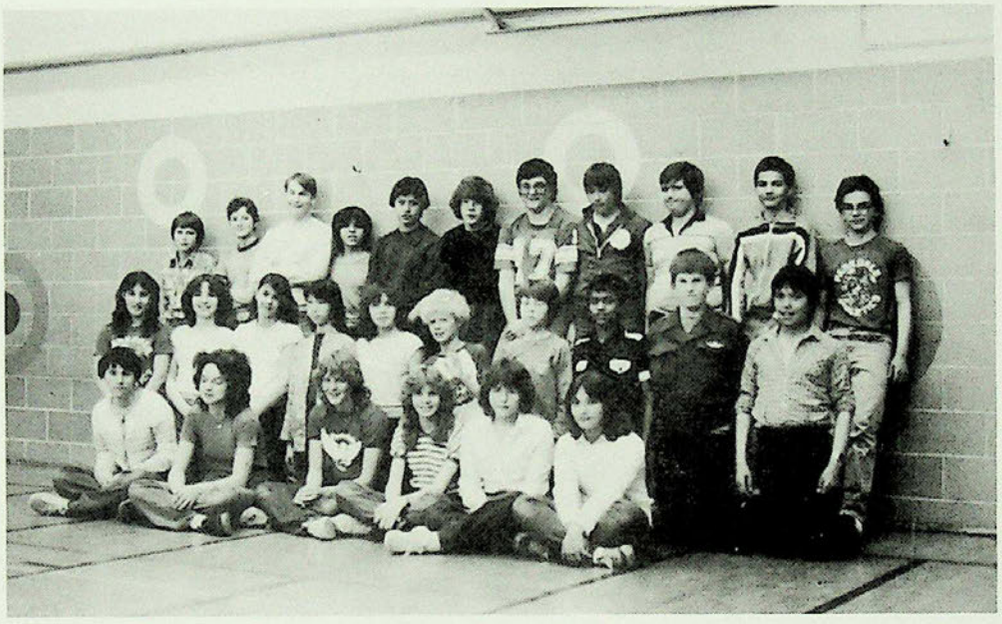
As proud as we are of the teachers, we are even more proud of the students that go to Parkdale. What we lack in size, we make up in spirit and heart. For, "It is quality rather than quantity that matters". (Lucius Annalus Seneca)

I would like to bid good luck and good-bye to those fellow students whom we shall not see again.

"My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there". (Charles Hettering)

Garry Mah

Grade Nine



Grade Eight

Grade Seven

Parkdale Public School

11648-85 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 3E5
477-7443 477-1820

TO STUDENTS AND STAFF OF PARKDALE SCHOOL, GREETINGS.

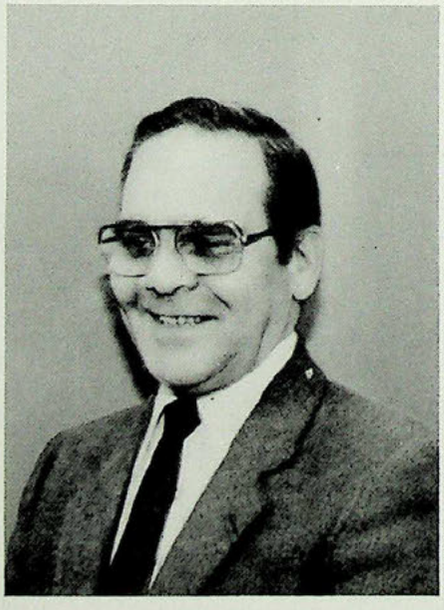
We are proud to be associated with you and to be part of this reunion. Researching the school history and interacting with the graduates who have planned and organized the event has given us a respect for and appreciation of Parkdale and its people that is nowhere surpassed.

Knowing the successes and achievements of the past gives us the motivation to continue to strive for excellence. Our best wishes to all who are, have been, or will yet be of Parkdale.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

C. L. Olsen
Principal



Back: Sharon Stevens
Ruth Parry
Don Rimbey
Front: John Law
Heather
Parliament

Back: Carol Everett
Lynne Hewson
Peggy Campeau
Mary Pochkay
Front: Leslie Leahy
Zenia Nemish

Back: Elton Kellin
Brian Plowman
Lowell Olson
Middle: Sandi Rix
Shaun Hains
Front: Warren Jukes

Acknowledgements

This book has been written and compiled
by the Parkdale History Committee.

Jim Bristow
Lois Eskelson (Field)
Eileen Hamilton (Pfeiffe)
Russ Hamilton
Kay Savey (Miller)

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and co-operation of the following:

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C. L. Olsen
Ena B. Hawken
Don Marion
Dorothy Shewell (Laing)
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Parkdale School 70th Reunion
June 11th & 12th 1982

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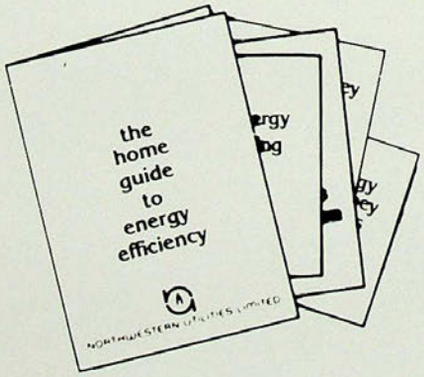

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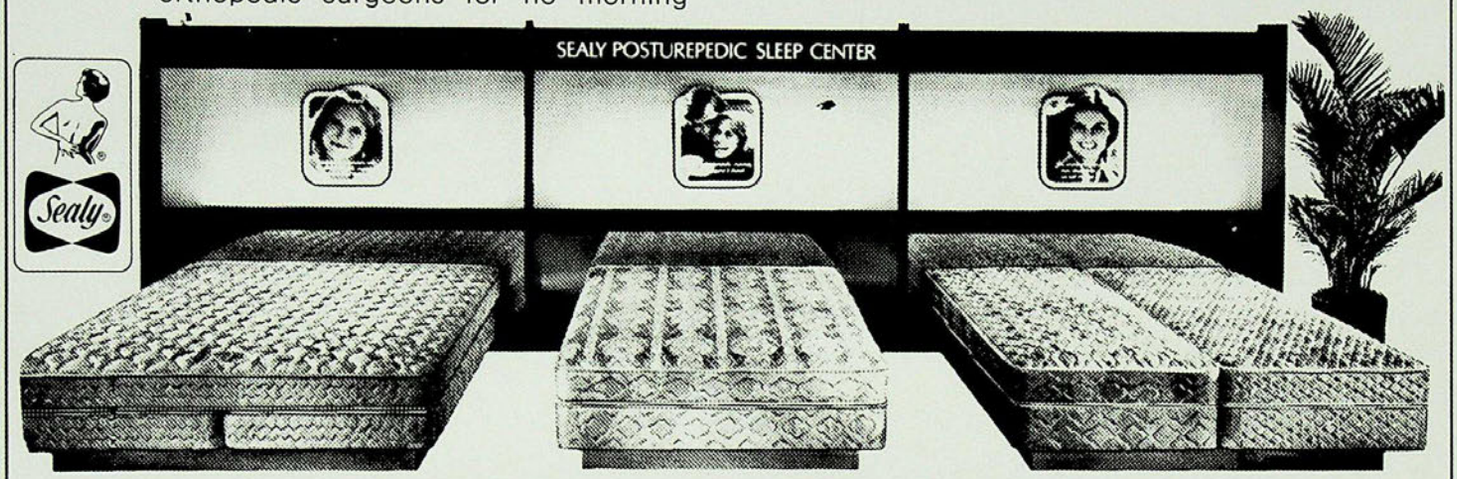

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